

Summer 6-15-2012

ENG 3807-001: Victorian Literature

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English 3807: Victorian Literature

MTWR 1:00 – 2:45; CH 3170

Summer 2012

Professor Richard Sylvia

Office: Coleman 3775; Office Hours: MTWR 11:00 – 12:00

Phone: 581-6292 (office); Email: rasylvia@eiu.edu**Texts:**Dickens, *Hard Times*Mundhenk, *Victorian Prose: An Anthology (VPR)*O’Gorman, *Victorian Poetry: An Annotated Anthology (VP)***Course Description, Design, Methods, and Goals:**

This course will introduce you to the major social, historical, and literary developments in England during the reign of Queen Victoria, 1837 to 1901. Our goal is to work toward an understanding of the period, generally, and to develop insight into how each of the writers on the syllabus contributes to the Victorian frame of mind.

Some works you might find quite difficult. Do not be discouraged. Do the best you can and come to class willing to share your responses, to ask questions, and to improve your understanding. To help you retain the material of the course, I have scheduled five exams during the semester.

Class time will be devoted to lecture, discussion, and small group work.

Requirements and Grades:

careful preparation of assigned reading
regular participation in class discussions
five exams – 100%

Course Policies

Attendance at all class meetings is expected but not required. *Exams are based on class discussions and lectures.*

If you have a documented disability and wish to receive academic accommodations, please contact the Coordinator of the Office of Disability Services (581-6583).

I enforce the English Department Statement on Plagiarism: "Any teacher who discovers an act of plagiarism – 'The appropriation or imitation of the language, ideas, and/or thoughts of another author, and representation of them as one's own original work' (Random House Dictionary) – has the right and the responsibility to impose upon the guilty student an appropriate penalty, up to and including immediate assignment of a grade of F for the course, and to report the incident to the Judicial Affairs Office."

Tentative Schedule

Week 1

June 11: introduction to course, "From Romantic to Victorian (Wordsworth to Hardy)"

June 12: **VPR**: Kay-Shuttleworth, "The Moral and Physical Condition of the Working Classes"; Mayhew, "Labour and the Poor"; Prince Albert, speech on the Great Exhibition; Queen Victoria, journal entry on the Great Exhibition

June 13: **VPR**: Carlyle, "Past and Present"

June 14: **VPR**: Smiles, "Self-Help" and "Leaders of Industry"; **exam**

Week 2

June 18: Dickens, *Hard Times* Book the First

June 19: *Hard Times* Book the Second

June 20: *Hard Times* Book the Third

June 21: *Hard Times*; **exam**

Week 3

June 25: **VPR**: Tonna, "The Wrongs of Women"; Ellis, "The Women of England"; Nightingale, "Cassandra"

June 26: **VP**: Webster, "Faded"; Christina Rossetti, "Goblin Market"

June 27: **VP**: E. B. Browning, "Bertha in the Lane," "Rime of the Duchess May," "Lord Walter's Wife," "Amy's Cruelty"

June 28: **exam**

Week 4

July 2: Tennyson, "The Lady of Shalott," "Ulysses," "Crossing the Bar"

July 3: Browning, "My Last Duchess," "The Bishop Orders his Tomb"

July 4: Independence Day; no class

July 5: reading day; no class

Week 5

July 9: **VPR**: Chambers, *Vestiges of the Natural History of Creation*; Darwin, "On the Origin of Species"; Gosse, *Father and Son*

July 10: Tennyson, *In Memoriam, A.H.H.*, lyrics 50 – 58

July 11: Arnold, "Dover Beach"; Hardy, "Hap," "The Ruined Maid"; Hopkins, "God's Grandeur," "Pied Beauty"

July 12: **exam**

Week 6

July 16: Hardy, "The Three Strangers"

July 17: "The Withered Arm"

July 18: "Interlopers at the Knap"

July 19: **exam**